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Strategic Warning Staff

Washington, D.C. 20301

0-0106/sws

10 August 1976

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Special Assistant to the DDCI 6D52, CIA Headquarters

Dear Cord,

Despite the lengthy negotiations which led to the establishment of the Strategic Warning Staff, there was little discussion of who should make up the Staff. I know of no formal document setting an overall size or requiring NFIB members to provide a certain number of people at a particular grade. The general responsibility, however, is clearly stated in DCID 1/5 which says that NFIB "departments and agencies" will "provide full-time, senior professional intelligence personnel" to the SWS.

General Faurer and agreed that the functions of the SWS as described in DCID 1/5 could best be accomplished with a professional staff of 10 analysts in addition to the Director. This number reflected a desire to have broad community representation, but to stay within the general requirement that the Staff be kept small. The number assumed no 24-hour staffing, and left open the prospect of a short-term increase in personnel during "crisis" periods. The plan was to have two representatives from CIA, DIA, and NSA, and one from State and each of the Services.

In the 18 months of its existence, the SWS has operated with six or seven analysts on duty. At present, our on-board complement is:

DIA 0-6* & GS-15 NSA GS-14 & GS-12 CIA GS-13

Air Force 0-5

*Serves as Deputy Director of SWS

In addition, the Staff has a Secretariat comprised of an Executive Officer (0-5), two enlisted personnel and two civilians (GS-07 & GS-09) provided by DIA and one civilian (GS-06) provided by CIA.

By mid-September, we anticipate being closer to full strength. The Army has designated an 0-4 who will report on 13 September.

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CIA/OSR is apparently willing to fill again the other CIA "slot." The Marine Corps has volunteered to assign an officer about the middle of September. (We do not believe this meets the Navy's obligation, and that Service and State remains the most reluctant to participate.)

While there is obviously nothing magic about the number 10, I believe this is about the right size analytic component given the Staff's responsibilities and the importance of having all major members of the Community represented. Establishing slots under the DCI could aid us in several ways. All those who now furnish people to the Staff must use one of their own slots for the assigned individual; especially in the case of smaller components that may work a hardship. Somewhat longer assignments would be beneficial for the SWS and would be easier for the contributing agency to make if it could retain and temporarily refill its slot. The Special Assistant and the Director of the Staff would have a stronger hand in the selection of people for the Staff. Finally, the status of the Staff as an independent entity supporting the Special Assistant and the DCI would be enhanced.

I do not know what precedents exist for this arrangement—perhaps the IC Staff or the NIOs—but I believe it is worth exploring and I appreciate your interest in doing so.

